

every two or three days. No drugs were given. There was some abdominal pain for the first three or four days. The temperature never rose above 37.8° C. On removing the sutures on the seventh day, the abdominal wound was found healed *per primam*. On the 20th day she was discharged in best health. The author draws attention (1) to the fact that any viscera could escape injury in spite of the weapon having been thrust with a grown man's full strength, and having penetrated very deeply into the abdominal cavity; and (2) that so excellent a recovery could be attained in an old woman, in spite of the weapon being thickly coated with dung, the prolapsed and strangulated bowel being covered with useless dirty rags for 24 hours, the loss of blood being great, and the removal of the wounded woman from her home to the hospital taking place under such unfavorable circumstances as an extremely rough and long route and incessant cold rains.—*Meditzinskoïë Obozerni*, No. 1, 1887.

VII. Case of Stab (Knife) Wound of the Abdomen with Prolapse and Lesion of the Small Bowel. By DR. D. BEKLEINSHEFF (Russia.) A healthy and well nourished field labourer, *aet.* 17, was unintentionally stabbed in the abdomen by his mate. When seen by Dr. Bekleinsheff (a local country or *zenisky* practitioner) five hours later, the lad lay moaning and writhing about on a sleeping loft at a small (one roomed) hut inhabited by a crowd of laborers. On removing from his body a heap of dirty rags, the whole abdomen was found to be covered with highly distended and congested intestinal loops, amidst which the omentum was visible here and there. A round worm and soft fecal matter present amongst the loops showed unmistakably that the weapon had penetrated the bowel somewhere. A careful exploration which caused vomiting led to the detection of a transverse wound about 3 centimeters long, which was then stitched with 3 nodular catgut sutures. The abdominal wound measured only 4 cm. and was situated along the middle line, commencing just under the umbilical ring. Having washed out the parts with a (1 to 2000) solution of corrosive sublimate, Dr. Bekleinsheff attempted to return the viscera into the abdominal cavity. He met, however, a stubborn resistance on the

part of the lad who, on every pain caused by the manipulation, at once commenced to writhe and "to puff himself up." There was not a single assistant present; and the room was small and as hot and sultry as only a Russian room in January could be. And yet there was nothing to be done except to cover the viscera with a piece of iodoform gauze and to bring the struggling patient under the full influence of chloroform. And so the author actually did, after which the reduction could be effected in the easiest manner. Having then closed the abdominal wound with two silk sutures including the whole thickness of the wall, the writer irrigated the parts with the sublimate solution, powdered with iodoform, applied a wadding dressing and placed the lad on a better bed. The after-treatment consisted in an absolute rest on the back, ice-bag, morphia hypodermically, and a strict diet limited to boiled milk and oat-porridge. For the first three days the patient was extremely collapsed and suffered from pain, delirium, vomiting, dyspnœa, and fever, (40.0° c.)—in short, was thought lost. But from the fourth day a steady improvement ensued. On the sixth, the dressing and sutures were removed. On the thirty-fourth day he was as well as possible. Pointing to his encouraging case as well as to those of Drs. Gedevanoff, Teziakoff, Alexeeff, etc., and referring especially to the circumstances under which an average Russian *zemsky* (country) practitioner must do his work, Dr. Bekleinsheff observes that "the practitioner of this kind, only too often finds himself in conditions, in which one can venture to render a rational medical aid only after summoning one's whole strength and courage." One single assistant is the pure country air: to its agency the fact should be attributed that the rustic dirt does not give rise to such harmful consequences as are daily observed in towns in absence of an ideal cleanliness.—*Meditzinskoië Obozrenië* (Moscow), No. 15, 1887.

VIII. Two Cases of Penetrating (Horn and Scythe) Wounds of the Abdomen with Protrusion of Viscera. By DR. D. BEKLEINSHEFF (Russia). I. A peasant boy, æt. 13, when attempting to lead away a new born calf from an angry cow, was gored by the latter in the right groin, an intestinal loop protruding from the